

**Professional Development Opportunity Requested
Vestavia Hills Elementary School at Liberty Park**

Second Grade Team: Angela Hollis, Kathryn Knorr, Amanda Ramey, Jan Montgomery, Carol Williams, Millie Dedrick

10-09-09

Need/ Opportunity	The second grade teachers recognize the need for differentiation in the Math Classroom at VHELP. Students of varying levels of achievement must be nurtured individually in order to increase their problem solving and accuracy skills in Math. The time available to teach Math is limited. Recently, an initiative to improve Math curriculum and foster problem solving skills in students was discussed during a meeting with the school's principal, Mrs. Holley and the district Math Specialist, Wesley Gordon. A management system and common lesson plan format is needed in order to incorporate the use of games, small groups and compacting in the Math curriculum, if a higher level of teaching and student achievement is to be accomplished.
Goals and Objectives	<p>*The second grade teachers will devise a management system, resource list and sample lesson plan template for the incorporation of compacting, small groups and centers into the Math curriculum at VHELP.</p> <p>*Student achievement will increase as a result of better use of the time available in class spent working at their individual academic level.</p> <p>*Problem solving will become a central focus in the Math curriculum, better preparing students for the next grade level as well as standardized testing.</p>
Activities	<p>*The second grade teachers will meet for one full school day to plan for incorporating games, small groups and compacting into the Math curriculum at VHELP.</p> <p>*A plan will be written, including strategies, resources and a sample lesson plan template that may be shared with the rest of the faculty.</p> <p>*Substitute teachers will be provided to cover the classrooms for one school day.</p> <p>*The team requests an off campus venue in order to focus, without distraction, on the planning process.</p>
Background Information	The second grade team at VHELP has successfully implemented new and innovative strategies in the past. This group of teachers piloted the compacting and class changing procedures that are now the norm for first grade at VHELP. Additionally, this team wrote and received a grant for a summer workday in which planning was accomplished for the "Daily 5" strategies that are now in place across the grade level. A similar approach to management will be considered when planning for Math curriculum, based on the Vestavia Hills City Schools initiative for improving Math achievement.
Budget	Primary Classroom Substitute: \$75.00 X6= \$450.00

Attachments	<p>*Attached are notes from a recent grade level meeting in which an interim plan for instruction, pending the approval of a day long professional development opportunity, was formulated.</p> <p>*Alignment of the Alabama Course of Study to the 2nd grade Math Text (Scott Foresman)</p>